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From: Medina, Nicole (DPH)
Sent: Monday, October 03, 2011 8:59 AM
To: Looney, Ann
Cc: Corbett, Kate (DPH)
Subject: Nursing Mom's room @ state Lab
Attachments: Reasonable breaktimes for nursing mothers.pdf

Importance: High

We recently had a very unproductive meeting on September 29, 2011 with Ceci Dunn and Grace Connolly to find out how to deal with concerns that nursing mothers have with changes that are pending in the current and only nursing mother's room to be in compliance with the amendment. Federal Register Vol. 75 No. 244 attached for your review.

The current and only set up is a woman's bathroom with a locker room and shower that is not separate from the area to express milk. The bathroom is locked and a key has to be retrieved to gain access to the area. The locker room has a dual use for nursing mothers because we have been provided with a refrigerator because of temperature fluctuations in the building,

The only change being made to be in compliance with the amendment is adding a deadbolt that will lock from the inside. The deadbolt is setting the area up to be "single" use only; which necessitates prolonged waiting by not allowing nursing mothers to have access each time she has the need to express milk as the amendment requires. However, it has been brought to my attention that an additional refrigerator will be made available in the non-dead bolted area.

Suggestions of keeping the key entry, adding a medical like curtain for privacy, and an in use sign, to facilitate more than one nursing employee were made. In response to the suggestions it was stated that isn't being in compliance with the law. It clearly states in several sections of Federal Register/Vol. 75, No. 244 that the requirement can be met by creating a space with partitions or curtains. In addition it doesn't appear that another nursing mother using this room simultaneously would be considered an "intrusion" from a co-worker as other nursing mothers would have permission to be using this room for the purpose of expressing milk.

We are very upset that this issue could not be resolved and that we have had to bring this to your attention. I am sure you understand the urgency of this matter and hope that we can get a resolution quickly.

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